REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 3, 2004, has been reviewed carefully and the application has been amended in a sincere effort to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to due to a typographical error and the correction has been made in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Double Patenting

Claims 2 and 17 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 – 10 and 13 of Hebert et al., United States Patent No. 5, 920,546 ("Hebert") in view of Phaal, United States Patent No. 6,055,564 ("Phaal").

Briefly, Applicant's invention as claimed in claims 2 and 17 involves a method of providing conferencing services for many types of conferences including large conferences of 30 or more participants as well as conferences that may change in size dynamically. In addition, the inventive conferencing services can be provided to participants that are coupled to the system via any type of telecommunication device, such as a conventional landline telephone, a mobile phone, and other personal communication devices. The Applicants' method includes defining a requested conference in a particular way in

order to most effectively accommodate the conference, if it is a priority, or to efficiently manage the resources of the system.

These features are not taught by the commonly owned Hebert reference. The Hebert system provides a conferencing function, but does not allow for defining a type of conference at the time of the request. In addition, Hebert does not use an algorithm for assigning the DSP circuit according to one of various parameters that can be user defined in order to accommodate the conference and/or to preserve system resources.

As noted by the Examiner, Hebert does not disclose the limitation of claim 2 that recites that the requested conference is defined as being one of a dynamic, critical and/or static type. In addition, Hebert does not teach identifying the DSP circuit which is appropriate for that particular type of conference. Thus, there is not obvious-type double patenting of the presently stated claim 2 with Hebert alone. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

In addition, Phaal does not render Applicants invention as claimed in claim 2 obvious. In addition to the distinctions outlined in previous responses filed by Applicants, Phaal does not provide for a large conference with participants coupled to the system via the PSTN or a private network using any type of telecommunications device, such as a traditional landline telephone. Phaal teaches a session establishment between a host and multiple clients which is conducted when a client interacts with a particular web site over the Internet via a personal computer. The Phaal system does not accommodate users who are coupled to the system via a traditional landline telephone, nor a mobile telephone that is not accessing a website, via the Internet. Thus, the Phaal system is of a more narrow scope in that, it requires participants to have Internet access and, in that environment,

Phaal provides solutions to Internet traffic to certain websites. It is not providing solutions about assigning DSP resources in the most efficient or dependable manner to assure conferencing services are reliably provided depending upon the defined conference type and for multiple participants, each of whom may be using any one of a variety of telecommunications devices, as provided by Applicant's method. Further, the combination of Hebert and Phaal does not render Applicant's invention obvious because Hebert does not suggest defining a conference type, nor an algorithm for selecting the correct DSP card, and Phaal does not suggest or teach participants who are coupled to the system via telephone devices, that are not coupled to the Internet. Claim 2 has been amended herein to clarify these distinctions, and it is respectfully submitted that the claim as amended is not obvious in view of Hebert and Phaal and further, claim 2 now in condition for allowance. Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 2, 5, 7-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hebert and Phaal.

The distinctions which newly amended claim 2 has over both references are set forth above. Claim 5, which is dependent upon claim 2, adds the further limitation that user-defined parameters can be employed in providing the conferencing services. Once again, the Phaal system which admits new client requests to sessions in progress on a host web site does not render obvious Applicants' method of providing conferencing services

in a telecommunications system, which method is a procedure for assigning DSP re-sources to increase dependability and resource management in handling large voice con-ferences. The method of claim 2 is not rendered obvious in view of either Herbert or Phaal alone or in combination. Hebert does not teach predefining a conference type an assigning node having the best DSP resources for that conference, and Phaal teaches nothing about voice conferencing using DSP cards at all, and Phaal's system cannot ac-commodate participants who are not using a personal computer coupled to the Internet. Thus, the references do not alone, nor in combination disclose, teach or suggest Appli-cants' improved conferencing system and method as claimed in the amended claims.

Claims 7 through 13 are dependent directly or indirectly on newly amended claim 2, and they add even further limitations to that which is claimed in amended independent claim 2, and it is respectfully submitted that they are thus in condition for allowance.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Hebert and Phaal in view of United States Patent No. 6,324,169 to Roy ("Roy").

Claim 14 is indirectly dependent upon newly amended claim 2, and adds the further limitation that a static conference can be assigned to a DSP on a "best fit" ba-sis. Roy's conferencing resources are provided via a wide area network that is intercon-nected with routers that in turn serve switched LAN hubs that communicate with custom-ers workstations. In contrast, Applicants' method, involves the actual switching nodes and conferencing nodes which intake the voice information to create a conferenced out-put and switch this back out to the participants. Applicants' method can utilize circuit switched or packet switched incoming information. Roy is a programmed system for

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providing multimedia conferencing over a packet switched network. As claimed in claim 2 allows for participants to be coupled to the system via any telecommunication device that can be coupled to the PSTN or a private network, but does not have to be a part of the specially programmed system as defined by Roy.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 3 was rewritten in independent form in the previous response and it is respectfully submitted that it is now in condition for allowance. Claim 6 depends upon claim 3. Claim 15 was previously amended to include the elements of the base claim, and claim 16 depends upon claim 15. Claim 18 has been rewritten herein in independent form to include the elements in the base claim, and claim 19 is dependent upon claim 18. New claims 20 and 21 been added.
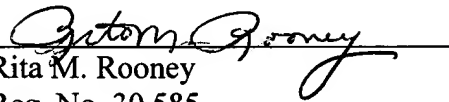
SUMMARY

Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and arguments herein, all of the objections and rejections have been addressed and overcome, and reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned in order to advance the prosecution of this application in any respect.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account

No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,

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